

XXII. *Descriptions of some Coprophagous Lamellicorn Beetles from New Holland.* By J. O. WESTWOOD, F.L.S.

[Read 1st November, 1841.]

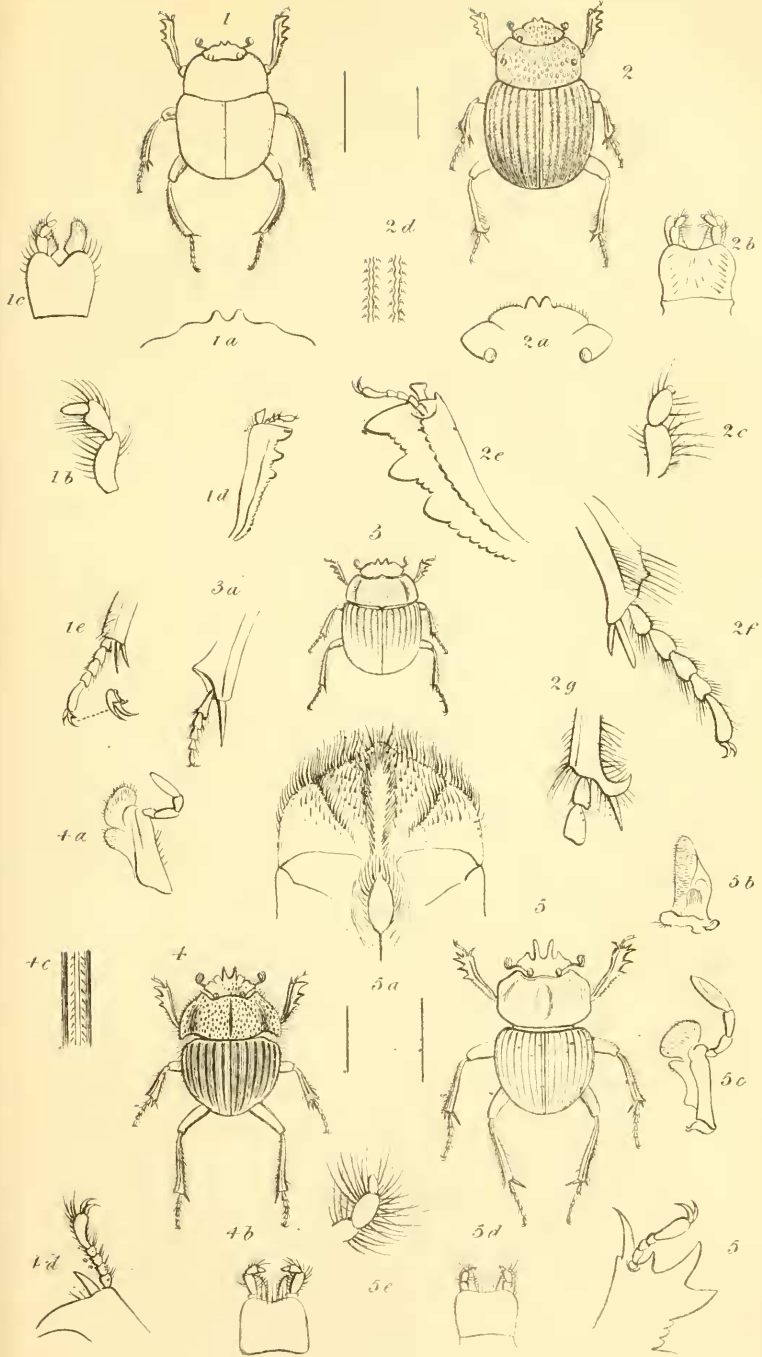
THE insects described below belong to that division of the family of the sacred beetles, (*Scarabæidæ*, MacLeay, *Ateuchites*, auct. al.,) which is distinguished by having the head and thorax destitute of horns; the scutellum obsolete; the intermediate tibiæ with two spurs, and they, as well as the posterior tibiæ, not dilated into an elongated triangle at the tip, as in the *Coprides*.

It is a remarkable peculiarity in Entomo-geography, that whilst the arid deserts of Africa produce great numbers of coprophagous *Scarabæidæ* of large size, New Holland is almost entirely destitute of these insects; and of these, the largest appears to be the

Circellium hæmisphericum, Péron, (Pl. VIII. fig. 3,) figured by Guérin in the "Iconographie du Règne Animal, Insectes," pl. 21, fig. 3, (and described in the texte, p. 76,) as $7\frac{1}{2}$ lines (15 millem.) long. This insect has been formed by Reiche into the genus *COPROECUS*, in the "Revue Zoologique, par la Société Cuvierriene" for July in the present year (1841, p. 211).

M. Reiche, in his memoir on this group of insects, published since the above was written, states that in the specimen belonging to the Jardin des Plantes the antennæ and part of the trophi are wanting. His figure of the insect is much more elongate-oval than that of M. Guérin; it is, however, evidently not broad enough, according to the dimensions given by M. Reiche. This author has detected short but distinct tarsi in the fore feet, and a single spur at the extremity of the middle tibiæ. He has, however, represented the posterior tibiæ as terminating on the inside in an acute spine as long as the calcar; whereas M. Guérin figures it as truncated, obliquely emitting the calcar near the middle of the truncation: and he describes the elytra as very convex, with six elevated smooth costæ, each of which is accompanied on each side by a row of small punctures, in which respect it approaches *Tessarodon*, from which, however, it is separated by its possessing only one spur to the middle tibiæ.

Another species, remarkably distinct in having the hind angles of the thorax acute and prolonged backwards, and being $3\frac{1}{4}$ lines long, has been mistaken for the *Ateuchus Hollandiæ* of Fabricius, by Dejean, (who has formed it into the genus *AULACIUM*, adopted



by Reiche in the work above referred to,) whilst De Laporte formed it (with the same erroneous specific name) into his slightly characterized genus *Mentophilus* (Hist. Nat. An. art. Col. vol. ii. p. 74, pl. 4, fig. 4). Reiche has, however, proposed for it the specific name of *A. carinatum*. (Pl. VIII. fig. 4, and details.)

The real *Ateuchus Hollandiæ*, the original specimen of which, described by Fabricius from the Banksian Cabinet, I detected amongst the unarranged insects of that collection in the possession of the Linnæan Society, although still authenticated by the original label, has been formed by Mr. Hope into the genus *Tessarodon*, in his "Coleopterist's Manual," vol. i. p. 55; the insect itself being figured in his plate 3, fig. 15. More recently Mr. Hope has obtained two other species of the same genus from Australia, which have enabled me to give the following generic details; but as these insects absolutely disagree with the character expressed by the name *Tessarodon*, (having only two teeth in the front of the clypeus,) another name ought to be given to the genus.

TESSARODON, Hope, Reiche.

Corpus obovatum, subconvexum. *Caput* anticè in dentibus duobus triangularibus brevibus productum; angulis posticis posticè haud porrectis. *Mentum* subquadratum, anticè parum emarginatum. *Palpi* labiales breves, articulis duobus basalibus subæqualibus longe setosis, tertio (apicali) minimo. *Prothorax* rudè punctatus, lateribus in medio angulatis vel subangulatis, utrinque versus marginem profundè impressus. *Elytra* ovato-rotundata, tenuissimè striata, striis per paria ordinatis, singulo pari utrinque lineâ punctorum impressorum notato. *Pedes* longi. *Tibiæ* anticæ calcari brevi obliquè truncato instructæ; *tibiæ* intermediæ curvatæ depressæ, pone medium subdilatatæ, angulo apicali externo obliquè truncato, bicalcaratæ; *tibiæ* posticæ minus curvatæ, apice interno recurvo unicalcaratæ. *Tarsi* antici brevissimi, articulo ultimo longo; *tarsi* 4 postici longiores, articulo 2^{do} præcedenti parum majori; unguibus parvis, valde curvatis.

Sp. 1. *Tessarodon Hollandiæ*.

T. subrotundatus, totus ater, clypeo quadridentato, prothorace punctis oblongo-ovalibus impresso, elytris sulcatis, striis per paria impressis.

Long. corp. lin. $2\frac{2}{3}$.

Habitat in Nova Hollandia.

In Mus. Soc. Linn. Lond., olim Banks.

Syn. *Scarabæus Hollandiæ*, Oliv. Ins. l. 3, 174, t. 13, fig. 119 ;
Fabricius, Ent. Syst. 1, p. 65.

Ateuchus Hollandiæ, Fabricius, Syst. El. 1, p. 57.

Tessarodon Novæ Hollandiæ, Hope, Col. Man. 1, p. 55,
pl. 3, fig. 15 ; nec *Aulacium Hollandiæ*, Dejean, vel
Mentophilus Hollandiæ, Lap.

This species is smaller and (in proportion to its size) broader than either of the two following ; the sides of the head are produced on each side of the two middle horns into an advanced conical lobe ; the club of the antennæ is pale yellow ; the fore tibiæ are not so broad as in the next species, and the teeth on the outside are obtuse ; the hind tibiæ appendiculated at the tip on the inside.

The above description, and the figure published in Mr. Hope's Coleopterist's Manual, were taken from the original specimen still preserved at the Linnæan Society.

Sp. 2. *Tessarodon angulatus*, Westw. (Pl. VIII. fig. 2.)

T. subovalis, obscure castaneus, capite et prothorace rudè punctatis, clypeo in medio dentibus duobus conicis, lateribus ante oculos valde angulatis, tibiis posticis ad apicem appendiculatis.

Long. corp. lin. 3.

Habitat Nova Hollandia apud Swan River ?

In Mus. D. Hope.

This species is longer but not so broad as the typical species : it is entirely of a dark castaneous colour ; the head with two conical flat spines in the middle, on each side of which the margin is rounded for a short distance, it then runs nearly straight to a very sharp angle in front of the eyes ; the club of the antennæ is pale fulvous ; the head and thorax are very strongly and irregularly punctate, and the elytra are rather deeply striated in double rows, with punctures on each side ; the anterior tibiæ are furnished with a short spur dilated and truncated at the tip ; the hind tibiæ are appendiculated on the inside at the tip.

Sp. 3. *Tessarodon piceus*, Hope.

T. parvus, subovalis, castaneus ; capite et prothorace rudè punctatis, capitis angulis ante oculos rotundatis, tibiis posticis simplicibus.

Long. corp. lin. $2\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat Port Essington, New Holland.

In Mus. D. Hope.

Syn. *Tessarodon piceum*, Hope, MSS.